

WE CLAIM:

1. A binding assembly for generating bound documents, the binding assembly comprising:

5 a support structure that defines a floor onto which sheets to be bound are conveyed and a wall that extends from the floor to define a stop for the sheets that are fed onto the floor, each sheet having a strip of adhesive proximate a leading edge of the sheet;

10 a vibration imparting mechanism that is operatively engaged with the support structure and operable to vibrate the support structure; and

a binding mechanism that is arranged on the support structure and is displaceable with respect to the support structure to act on each sheet fed into the support structure such that the sheets are adhered together with the strips of adhesive.

15 2. A binding assembly as claimed in claim 1, which includes a frame, the support structure being a tray that is suspended from the frame.

20 3. A binding assembly as claimed in claim 2, in which a damping mechanism is interposed between the frame and the tray to damp the vibration of the support structure.

25 4. A binding assembly as claimed in claim 2, in which the vibration imparting mechanism is a vibrator that is engaged with a corner of the tray.

5. A binding assembly as claimed in claim 4, in which the vibrator is one of a subsonic vibrator and an unbalanced electric motor.

30 6. A binding assembly as claimed in claim 1, in which the binding mechanism includes a binding press that is positioned above the support structure to be aligned with leading edges of stacked sheets, the binding press being

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operable to urge said leading edges against each other so that the adhesive serves to bind the sheets together.